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**Subject:** Communications Workgroup  
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September 2, 2010

Communications Workgroup  
Delta Stewardship Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Lisbon District (Reclamation District 307) in the North Delta. My family began farming small holdings in Yolo and Sacramento counties in the late 1930's. I was not able to attend the August 12 meeting of the Communications Workgroup, but would like to respond to the broader issue of communication:

1. Could you please differentiate specifically between "stakeholders" and "interested parties"? In-Delta groups tend to view themselves as stakeholders, since their lands, homes, and businesses are very likely to be directly affected by almost anything the DSC may do, but there is some question whether the water contractors, State and Federal agencies, or environmental interests consider them in this way. Who are the two groups above relative to your processes, why, and would their input be viewed/used by you differently?
2. Your invitation to the meeting on August 12 focused on "ideas, tactics, and tools for how the council can communicate effectively, broadly, and transparently" with the goal of "receiving feedback from interested parties". However, the biggest concerns for the parties giving feedback has not been addressed - why does the DSC want their feedback, how does it intend to use it, and what are the internal processes in place to ensure that the feedback is actually incorporated into decision-making? The press release that followed your Communications Workgroup meeting stressed the intention the DSC has of opening "an effective two-way dialogue" with the groups it wishes to reach. As a recent NPR report editorialized about the attempts British Petroleum had made to communicate with Gulf area residents and businesses, "There is a difference between communication and a communication strategy." True dialogue requires that both parties listen and learn as well as speak. It is hoped the DSC intends to do much more than just speak to interested parties and the public. For example, posting public comment does allow those commenting to read each others' feedback; it does not not necessarily ensure that this public input will impact decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration.

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